

REBECCA COHN eNEWSLETTER

for the twenty-fourth Assembly District

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Cohn's Comment



The promise of the California dream is the promise of opportunity. To keep that promise alive, I've worked with my colleagues this year to push an ambitious legislative agenda to get real results for California's families. My goal was to help build opportunity for all our citizens and our children.

As always, my approach was neither partisan nor political. I am not motivated by ideology of the left or the right, just by finding practical solutions to the real problems California families face – the “bread and butter” challenges that working families elected me to deal with.

I believe that by working together across ideological boundaries we can be successful. For example, this past year by working with the governor we were able to:

- ✓ Provide the first on-time budget in five years
 - ✓ Fully fund transportation (Proposition 42)
 - ✓ Strengthen protections against repeat sex offenders with a bill I authored
 - ✓ Create protections against child abuse
 - ✓ Pass a hospital operation financing bill
 - ✓ Institute childhood nutrition bills
 - ✓ Pass disaster response legislation
 - ✓ Reorganize the Dept. of Corrections
- This year I continued working with my

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Hundreds of Children Digitally Fingerprinted

SAN JOSE – More than 150 families attended Assemblymember Cohn's “Stranger Danger” Camp on Saturday, September 24. The event was held at Sartorette School in the Cambrian School District. Visitors took advantage of free child identification kits, public safety information and balloon animals. Children were digitally fingerprinted and photographed by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office. The child identification kits, including the fingerprints and photographs, were given to the children's parents or guardians.

Assemblymember Cohn would like to thank the following agencies for their help in making the event possible: Sartorette School, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, the Santa Clara County Family Health Plan, the Santa Clara County

Office of Emergency Services, Santa Clara County First Five, the California Highway Patrol, Recreation Plus, the San Jose Fire Department, and the San Jose Police Department. The next “Stranger Danger” Camp and Children's Safety Resource Faire will be held Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., location to be determined. Please check back in this publication and on the Assemblymember's website for more details or contact Julie Lind at (408) 282-8920. ♦



Officers Salinas and Perea help Asm. Cohn teach children at Stranger Danger Camp at Sartorette Elementary

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

SAN JOSE — If it hasn't already, breast cancer will touch you or someone you know. According to the American Cancer Society approximately 210,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. One in seven women is diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and it is the second leading cause of cancer death of women in the U.S.

Who is at risk?

According to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, there are some risk factors:

- Late menopause (after age 55)
- Having a first child late in life (30 or older)
- Having a personal family history of cancer

Breast cancer does not just affect

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colleagues on issues Californians really care about including:

- ✓ Increasing the minimum wage
- ✓ Reducing the overseas outsourcing of California jobs
- ✓ Reviewing the effectiveness of corporate tax loopholes
- ✓ Bridging the “digital divide”
- ✓ Ensuing elder abuse protection
- ✓ Passing the Car Buyers Bill of Rights
- ✓ Creating protections against predatory lending
- ✓ Keeping violent video games out of the hands of our children
- ✓ Implementing Restrictions on dietary supplements
- ✓ Create a California Women’s Museum

Naturally, education and our environment are priorities for all Californians. This year we took a stand to fully fund the governor’s promise to our schools, penned legislation to ensure that principals excel and made sure our children have healthier foods at school. In addition, my colleagues and I were able to promote alternative fuel sources for our transportation fleet, protect citizens from pesticides and pass measures to ensure adequate energy supplies to keep California’s lights on.

Some of the accomplishments I’m most proud of this year are in the areas of transportation and health care. My colleagues and I were able to fully fund Proposition 42 to get traffic relief projects on a fast track and expand access to health care for children, provide access to low-cost prescription drugs and help keep our ailing hospitals financially afloat through Medi-Cal reimbursement.

The challenges facing California are always complex and varied. I believe that only by working together can we address these challenges and provide solutions that will keep the promise of the California dream alive for all Californians.

As always, I look forward to your thoughts on these matters.

— **Rebecca Cohn**

Assemblymember.Cohn@assembly.ca.gov ♦

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

Advanced Health Care Directive (AHCD)

Informational Workshop

The AHCD is a legal form that allows you to record your final wishes, such as organ donation, do not resuscitate orders and designation of who is allowed to make decisions on your behalf.

Thursday, October 20

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Santa Clara City Council Chambers

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA

For more information contact
Tori Ueda at (408) 282-8920 or
tori.ueda@asm.ca.gov.

Assembly Select Committee

Hearing on Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community

The committee will address Domestic Violence in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT)

Community.

Wednesday, October 26

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Santa Clara City Council Chambers

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA

For more information, contact
Julie Lind at (408) 282-8920 or
julie.lind@asm.ca.gov.

Carnival & Health Fair

The health fair will provide free screenings and information in various languages about health and social services.

Saturday, November 5

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sherman Oaks Community Center

1800-A Fruitdale Avenue
San Jose, CA

For more information contact
Tori Ueda at (408) 282-8920 or
tori.ueda@asm.ca.gov. ♦

Breast Cancer Month: Early Detection is Key

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women. Approximately 1,000 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year in the U.S. While it is more difficult to diagnose breast cancer in men than women, men are encouraged to see their doctor if they detect anything unusual.

Methods of early detection

Despite the fact that there is no way to prevent breast cancer, early detection is essential. Methods of early detection include:

- **Mammograms.** This screening for possible cancer should be done by women 40 and over at least once a year.
- **Clinical breast exams.** Women in their 20s should have one at least once every 3 years by a health care professional.
- **Breast self examinations.** This can be done at home by

women of all ages. Consult your health care professional if you feel any new lumps. (For information on how to perform a breast self examination, go to www.komen.org/bse.)

There is hope

Although 40,000 women will die of breast cancer this year, the breast cancer death rates are going down. The 5-year survival rates are exceptionally high for breast cancer found in the early stages – 95% for Stage 0 and 88% for Stage 1.

For more information contact:

- American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org or
(800) ACS-2345
- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation – Bay Area Affiliate
www.sfkomen.org or
(415) 397-8812 ♦

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Are You Ready for the Big One? Tips for Earthquake Safety

SAN JOSE – Recent national disasters serve to remind people to be prepared in case of an emergency. Can you survive alone for three days after a major earthquake? The first 72 hours are the most critical. You need to be able to live without running water, electricity and/or gas and telephones for at least three days following a quake. Remember that police and fire departments may be busy with serious crises and are not always available to help.

The following checklist will help you to prepare for an earthquake. Be ready to ride it out.

Develop a family plan

Prepare yourself, your family and your home by completing the activities on this check list and, as a further safety measure, fill out and carry emergency information cards.

Prepare Family Members:

- Learn first aid and CPR
- Learn how to turn off gas, water and electricity
- Learn where to take cover during an earthquake
- Learn locations of nearby hospitals, clinics, fire stations, etc.
- Decide how and where your family will reunite if separated or if travel becomes difficult
- Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that separated family members can call to report their whereabouts and condition
- Conduct practice drills
- Keep pet identification tags current

Set Aside Supplies and Check Periodically:

- Portable radios, flashlights and batteries
- One-week supply of canned or

dried food and a few gallons of water in plastic bottles

- Adjustable wrench to turn off gas and water
- Portable stove and matches
- Extra blankets or sleeping bags
- Available cash
- Pet food

Secure Furniture and Appliances:

- Secure water heater and refrigerator
- Place heavy items on lower shelves
- Make certain shelves are securely fastened
- Keep flammable or hazardous liquids (such as paints, pest sprays or cleaning products) in cabinets or secured on lower shelves

For more information contact Cameron Day at (408) 282-8920 or cameron.day@asm.ca.gov. ♦

Innovation Techniques in Domestic Violence Education on Display in Campbell

CAMPBELL – Assemblymember Cohn held a forum to examine Campbell Union High School District's domestic violence education program. The hearing took place in the Campbell Community Center on September 23. Cohn, who chairs the Select Committee on Domestic Violence, highlighted the district's program as a model to schools across the state.

The school district created the program with the support of Judge Richard Loftus. Loftus is the presiding Juvenile Court Judge for Santa Clara County. The program uses the existing English curriculum to examine domestic violence in literature. The students discuss domestic violence themes as they read.

English teachers using the curriculum spoke at the forum. They felt that the students reacted positively to the lessons. Loftus said that of the domestic violence related homicides in Santa Clara County, 30% of the couples began dating as teenagers. The curriculum aims to stop abuse during the teenage years.

Students' uncertainty about the definition of domestic violence was also addressed. The students in the program spoke about domestic violence using the characters in the readings. Discussing fictional characters serves as a gateway to discussing real-life experiences. One teacher found that talking about the characters lead to students

talking about their own lives.

A common misconception among students was that jealousy is a sign of love. Jealousy is often present in relationships with domestic violence. It is used as a means of control, which is the basis of many violent relationships.

The forum concluded that the curriculum should be expanded to school districts throughout Santa Clara County and eventually throughout the state. Assemblymember Cohn is committed to expanding this program. For information contact Julie Lind at (408) 282-8920 or julie.lind@asm.ca.gov. ♦



Judge Loftus addresses the audience as Asm. Cohn looks on

Assemblymember Cohn's Committee Assignments: **Chair:** Select Committee on Domestic Violence; **Member:** Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, & Internet Media; Committee on Health; Committee on Public Safety; Committee on Utilities and Commerce